A1 Cont.

3. (once amended) The method of claim 2 in which user data is transmitted in each time slot in a burst structure, user data being transmitted in each sub time slot in a corresponding burst structure.

4. (no change) The method of claim 3 in which the user data is transmitted in each time slot in a burst structure having n bits and wherein each time slot is partitioned into m sub time slots, user data being transmitted in each sub time slot in a corresponding burst structure having n/m bits.

5. (once amended) The method of claim 3 in which the user data comprises speech.

6. (once amended) The method of claim 1 in which the TDMA system is an EDGE packet switched network.

7. (once amended) The method of claim 6 in which the TDMA system is a wireless system, wherein in up-link data from p users is encoded such that each forms 1/p of an RLC/MAC block, wherein the data from each user is encoded into a respective one of p sub-time-slots.

8. (once amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the RLC/MAC block is transmitted over four TDMA frames.

9. (once amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the user data is encoded into an RLC/MAC block for transmission, the RLC/MAC block being transmitted in a sub-time-slot over a plurality of frames.

10. (once amended) The method of claim 1 in which user data associated with at least two users is encoded into a single RLC/MAC block, the portions of the RLC/MAC block associated with respective users being transmitted in respective sub-time-slots.

11. (newly added) The method of claim 1 in which the user data is transmitted in each time slot in a burst structure having n bits and wherein each time slot is partitioned into m sub time slots, user data being transmitted in each sub time slot in a corresponding burst structure having n/m bits.

12. (newly added) The method of claim 11 in which the user data comprises speech.

13. (newly amended) The method of claim 12 in which the TDMA system is a wireless system, wherein in up-link data from p users is encoded such that each forms 1/p of an RLC/MAC block, wherein the up-link data from each user is encoded into a respective one of p sub-time-slots.

14. (newly added) The method of claim 1, wherein the RLC/MAC block is transmitted over four TDMA frames.